

**Musselshell County FSA Office**  
**109 Railroad Avenue East**  
**Roundup MT 59072**  
**Phone: 406-323-2067**

*The Musselshell County Committee regular scheduled meeting is the third Tuesday of each month.*

**OFFICE HOURS**  
**7:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.**

### **County Committee Members**

Cathy Kombol, Chairwoman  
Jay Pelan, Vice-Chairman  
Bill Bergin, Regular Member

### **FSA Office Personnel**

Karen Schanz, CED  
Nancy Anderson, PT  
Cindy Charlton, PT  
John Ahlgren, Fieldman

### **Dates to Remember:**

**April 18 – May 16** – Conservation Security Program Signup

**May 15-July 15** – FSA State Committee established Primary Nesting Season for CRP

**May 15-August 1** – Primary Nesting Season for CRP contracts affected by the National Wildlife Federations settlement agreement with FSA

**June 2** – Final loan/LDP availability date for Corn, Dry peas, Grain sorghum, Lentils, Mustard seed, Safflower seed, Small chickpeas, Soybeans, and Sunflower seed harvested in 2007

**June 15** – COC Nominations Open

**Notice of Loss** – filed within 15 calendar days of the natural disaster occurrence or the date the damage to the crop or loss of production was apparent

**July 15** – deadline to provide 2007 production for NAP APH

**July 15** – 2007 NAP Application for Payment Deadline

**July 15** – Acreage report deadline

**August 1** – Deadline for reconstitutions

**September 30 – October 1** – Women Stepping Forward for Agriculture Symposium, Billings



# Musselshell County

## May 2008

### **Responsibilities for CRP Contract Holders**

CRP contract holders have certain responsibilities for carrying out the terms and conditions of the CRP contract. Those include, but are not limited to:

- ✓ Control all weeds, insects, pests and other undesirable species to the extent necessary to ensure that the establishment and maintenance of the approved cover is adequately protected and there is no adverse impact on surrounding land.
- ✓ Establish and maintain the required vegetative or water cover and other required practices.
- ✓ No activity may be conducted on CRP acres without authorization.
- ✓ Prior approval must be received from FSA before any harvesting, grazing or other commercial use of the forage may begin.
- ✓ If land with a CRP contract is sold, the new owners should notify the local county FSA office if they want to continue the contract.

If CRP land is sold and the new owner does not wish to continue the CRP contract, the previous CRP participant will be required to repay all payments received on the contract plus interest and liquidated damages. Liquidated damages are equal to 25 percent of the annual rental payment on those acres not contracted by the new owner.

### **NOTE: There are two primary nesting Dates**

**May 15 – July 15** FSA State Committee established Primary Nesting Season for CRP

**May 15 – August 1** Primary Nesting Season for CRP contracts affected by the National Wildlife Federations settlement agreement with FSA

**Check the Conservation Plan of Operations (CPO) for the primary nesting dates that apply to your CRP contract**

**LOAN and LDP Violations**

**Incorrect Certification** is either of the following:

- ❖ Certifying a quantity in excess of the quantity eligible for loan or LDP
- ❖ Making any fraudulent representation with respect to obtaining loans or LDPs.

**Unauthorized Removal** is the movement of any farm-stored loan quantity from the storage structure where the commodity was stored or structures that were designated when the loan was approved to any other storage structure whether or not the structure is located on the producer's farm without prior written authorization from the COC. Unauthorized removal is considered a violation if the producer does not maintain control of the commodity or CCC loses first lien on the collateral.

**Unauthorized Disposition** is the conversion of any loan quantity pledged as collateral for a farm-stored loan without prior written authorization from the COC.

**Consequences of Loan and LDP Violations** may be:

- ❖ Assessment of liquidated damages and other administrative actions, and shall be liable for monetary amounts as specified in the applicable regulations and terms and conditions of the applicable forms.
- ❖ Criminal prosecution under Federal Law.

**CRP Maintenance Incentives**

When the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) was originally announced a \$5/year maintenance rate was added to the contract to maintain the cover. In 2006, that rate was lowered to \$4/year. As of April 11, 2008 that rate has been lowered to \$2/year. The new rate does not affect any contracts previously approved and only applies to contracts approved after April 11, 2008.

Producers are required to perform management activities included in all contracts approved after May, 2003. These activities are eligible for cost-share assistance.

Please contact the office if you have questions regarding your CRP contract.

**Loan & LDP Final Availability Dates**

Loans and LDP's are available to eligible producers who have:

- ❖ Reported acreage of the crop for which a loan or LDP is requested.
- ❖ Complied with all other program provisions

Request for loans and LDP's shall be made on or before the final availability date. Following are the final availability dates for crops harvested in 2007 for eligible grains, oilseeds, pulse crops, wool & mohair and honey:

Commodity	Availability Date
Corn, Grain sorghum, Mustard seed, Safflower seed, Soybeans, Sunflower seed, Dry peas, Lentils and Small chickpeas	May 31, 2008
Wool/mohair for wool/mohair clipped in calendar year 2008	January 31, 2009

**CRP Management Activities**

Beginning with CRP Signup 26 and Continuous CRP Signup 27, all new CRP contracts were required to have a management activity included in the Conservation Plan of Operations (CPO). Management activities must be completed must be completed before the end of year 6 for 10 year contracts and before the end of year 9 for 15 year contracts.

Management activities include:

- Residue Management
- Ground Disturbing
- Interseeding Legumes
- Fabric Management
- Fertilization
- Prescribed Burn

Contact the county office for more detailed information.

## COC Election Approaching

Beginning **June 15, 2008**, nominations are being accepted for candidates for County Committee (COC) positions.

A county or area served by the COC is divided into local administrative areas (LAA). Each LAA is represented by one member on the county committee. Only one LAA holds an election each year. This year the LAA open in Musselshell County is for LAA 1, located west of Hwy 87 running north and south. Cathy Kombol represents this area and is no longer eligible to run.

The nominee must sign the nomination form in order to be nominated as a COC member.

Nomination forms are also available at the county office or by logging on to the Montana FSA website at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt>.

Please remember that as a county committee member you are the local voice of how FSA programs are administered to meet your local community and resource needs.

Nomination forms must be submitted to the FSA county office by **August 1, 2008**. Ballots will be sent to eligible voters beginning November 3, 2008. The final day for voters to submit their voted ballots is December 1, 2008.

## Measurement Service Charges

On farm measurement is charged at:

- Basic farm fee of \$30.00;
- Plus an hourly rate of \$16.00 for the first hour and \$8.00 for each additional ½ hour after the first hour. The minimum is 1 hour.

The hourly rate includes the time to travel from the FSA county office to the farm, complete the measurement service and return to the county office.

An "Initial Fee" is required at the time the measurement service is requested and the fee must be collected before the measurement service is performed. The initial fee will be the basic rate plus the hourly minimum. Once the service has been completed the actual fee will be calculated. The initial fee will be subtracted from the calculated fee and a letter will be sent informing you of the additional amount owed. If the amount is \$9.99 or less then an additional fee is not required.

## Measurement Service Charges (cont.)

In-office measurements are charged at:

- a basic farm rate of \$15.00 plus a 30-minute minimum rate of \$8.00.

Bin site measurements will be calculated according to the farm number and the physical location of the bins:

- for one farm with multiple bin sites, only one FSA-409 (a written request to have acreage measured by FSA) is required;
- for multiple farms and all the grain is stored in bins at one site, only one FSA-409 is required where the bin site is physically located;
- for multiple farms with a different bin site for each farm, a separate FSA-409 is required for each farm and bin site.

## SODBUSTING ON HIGHLY ERODIBLE LAND GROUND

**All producers must be aware of the following:**

**According to the 1985 Food Security Act, any native range that is highly erodible that is broken up must have an approved Conservation system that meets the soil loss tolerance at the time of seeding a commodity crop.**

**Failure to meet the soil loss tolerance at the time of seeding will be a violation of the Food Security Act. By being in violation, this will affect all payments earned or to be earned on any land and any affiliates land that earns government benefits. This will be effective until such time as the land is seeded to an approved cover that meets soil loss tolerance.**

**Musselshell County FSA**

109 Railroad Avenue East  
Roundup MT 59072

PRSRT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
BOZEMAN MT 59717  
PERMIT NO. 54

### **Inside this Issue**

**Responsibilities for CRP  
Contract Holders  
Loan & LDP Violations  
CRP Maintenance Rates  
COC Election Approaching  
CRP Maintenance Activities  
Sodbusting Native Range  
Measurement Services**

#### **Important Dates to Remember**

**May 31 – Final loan availability date for various crops  
June 15 – COC nominations open  
Notice of Loss – 15 calendar days of the natural disaster occurrence or the date the damage to the crop or loss of production was apparent  
July 15 – Acreage report deadline  
August 1 – Reconstitution Deadline**

### **Women Stepping Forward for Agriculture Symposium**

Mark your calendars for the annual Women Stepping Forward for Agriculture Symposium to be held September 30 & October 1 at the Clock Tower Inn in Billings, Montana.

A great slate of topics will be discussed such as Dispelling Agriculture Myths from the American Farm Bureau, a panel discussion from the congressional staffers, source water protection and farm-to-table. Ed Usset from the Minnesota Center for Farm Financial Management will be presenting "Grain Marketing is Simple." These are just a few of the topics, presentations, and activities that will occur during the two day event. Cost of registration is \$60 which includes meals and presentations.

The symposium will begin at 8:00 a.m. on September 30 with registration and end on October 1 at 2:00 p.m.

Continue to watch the newsletter for further details.

